What is a CT Colonography?
A CT Colonography is a scan to look at the large bowel. It is often performed if a colonoscopy is unsuccessful or cannot be performed safely. It does not require sedation unlike a colonoscopy.

What to Bring:
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc).

Preparation:
Dietary preparation is required, for 1–3 days before the scan. This involves following a modified diet and taking a prescribed laxative to cleanse the bowel. See preparation sheet included.

How long will it take?
The scan generally takes between 10-20 minutes but you can expect to spend around an hour in the radiology department.

Eating/ drinking:
A preparation sheet is included outlining in detail what you can eat and drink the three days prior to the examination. It is important that you follow these instructions exactly.

Bowel Preparation:
You will be required to take special bowel laxative preparation (this needs to be purchased from pharmacy) prior to your scan to clean out your bowel. Instructions which must be followed exactly will be provided to you along with three sachets of an oral x-ray contrast dye that needs to be taken.

Medications:
Iron tablets (ferrous sulphate) need to be stopped 2 days before your test.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your scan.

On the day of your scan, please bring with you a list of all medications you are taking.

Procedure:
On arrival to the radiology department a nurse will discuss your medical history and the procedure with you. A cannula (small plastic tube) will be inserted into your vein in your arm. This allows the nurse to administer a medication called Buscopan during the scan to help relax the bowel to achieve optimal scan results.

If you suffer from an eye condition called glaucoma please inform the staff as it is advised not to give the Buscopan medication in this instance.
During your scan, you will be lying on your left side on the CT scan bed and the nurse will gently insert a small plastic tube into your rectum. Carbon dioxide gas will be delivered into your bowel through the tube, using a special machine. You may feel slight abdominal discomfort or a feeling of fullness. Two scans are performed, the first lying on your back and the second on your stomach. Once the scans have finished the nursing staff will remove the tube and you may require the toilet at this stage.

**Post Procedure Care:**
You will be able to go home immediately after your scan. You should have something to eat and drink following the scan, and are able to resume your normal diet. It is preferable that someone is with you to take you home.

You may feel uncomfortable, a bit ‘crampy’ or ‘bloated’ for a few hours post scan. This usually passes quickly.

**Results:**
The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

**Radiation Risk:**
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

**Contact information**
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**Further information:**

**References**
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

Search CT Colonography for more information.

If you would like to provide feedback contact us at patient.information@alfred.org.au